

CALFED OPERATIONS MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Resources Building

Director's Conference Room, 11th Floor

Announcements – None to report

SWRCB Activities –

(Patricia Fernandez)- A SWRCB Staff report on the periodic review of the Water Quality Control Plan will be out by the end of February. The report will discuss current (D-1641) objectives relating to Delta Outflow, Export/Inflow ratios, Cross-channel operation, Suisun Marsh, Reverse flows, floodplain habitat and monitoring requirements. A Notice of Preparation on CEQA scoping for south Delta water quality and San Joaquin River flows will also go out at end of February with a scoping meeting tentatively planned at the end of March.

Water Transfers

1. Property Reserve to Contra Costa Water District – 12,494 acre-feet, issued notice in January, comments due in February.
2. South Feather Water and Power to San Diego County- 10 TAF, issued notice in January, comments due February 19.
3. Delta Wetlands to MWDSC -17,491 acre-feet, still reviewing.
4. Tulare Lake to Westlands - 8 TAF, still reviewing.

Fisheries Status

(*Chinook*) The JPE for winter-run was completed. There were roughly 5,800. A few (2-3) winter-run have been salvaged at project export facilities so far.

(*Steelhead*) Nothing to report

(*Green Sturgeon*) Nothing to report

(*Delta smelt*) No triggers (per USFWS Biological Opinion) that would constrain water project operations have been hit yet. Turbidity in the south Delta is running about 3-5 NTU, well short of the 12 NTU trigger. Water temperature is about 10 degrees Centigrade, lower than the 12 degrees trigger.

(Longfin Smelt) Adults were captured at 5 Kodiak Trawl stations. The 2nd smelt larvae survey was completed and longfin smelt were caught at 9 of 12 south Delta stations, which triggers potential protective criteria. The Smelt Working Group recommended an OMR flow of -3500 cfs or more positive. After reviewing current and short-term projected operations, the Director of DFG released a statement that “no restrictions are required at this time”.

Work Group Updates

(VAMP) Dennis Westcot is the new Project Administrator for VAMP, replacing Lowell Ploss, who retired after last year’s VAMP.

(DAT) Not much salmon activity in the Delta yet, it has been all upstream of the Delta. There have been a couple of steelhead salvaged at Skinner facilities (SWP). Following DFG and longfin smelt; no recommendations from DAT yet.

(WOMT) Most of discussion has been about proposed Delta smelt experiment at Clifton Court. The experiment would be CALFED funded and involve the release of two batches of 5,000 adults to see how quick they show up at Skinner facilities. Also, both SWP and CVP are concerned about X2 requirements in February given continuing extremely dry (drought) conditions and may request a modification of the standard from the SWRCB via a letter, discussions are ongoing, no final decision made yet.

CVP/SWP Operations Updates

(CVP) – Keswick @ 3,250 cfs (Shasta storage is 1.4 MAF) , Folsom @ 800 cfs, Goodwin @ 175 cfs (New Melones storage at 1.17 MAF), Jones PP 3 units at approx. 2,400 cfs, Federal share of San Luis at 290 TAF.

(SWP) – Oroville at 950 cfs with storage of 1.0 MAF, Banks at 2500 cfs but drop to 1,000 cfs by Feb. 1, State share of San Luis at 370 TAF.

(Delta Conditions) – Vernalis approx. 1,200 cfs, Freeport approx. 9,000 cfs, Delta Outflow approx. 10,000 – 11,000 cfs, x-channel gates closed, X2 above Collinsville, South Delta water quality stations about 1.0 EC except Old River near Tracy approx. 1.1 EC.